

**Lesson
1**

Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Teaching

A **verbal** is a word that is formed from a verb but acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

A **gerund** is a verbal that ends in *-ing* and acts as a noun. A **gerund phrase** consists of the gerund with its modifiers and complements.

Painting a landscape requires careful observation. (The gerund is *painting*.)

In sentences, gerunds and gerund phrases may be used any place that nouns may be used.

As subject	<u>Painting</u> is my favorite pastime.
As predicate nominative	My favorite pastime is <u>painting portraits</u> . (phrase)
As direct object	I love <u>painting with watercolors</u> . (phrase)
As object of a preposition	I get in touch with nature by <u>painting</u> .

A. Finding Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

In each sentence, underline every gerund phrase once. Underline each gerund twice.

1. Painting still-life pictures taught Mike a lot about color.
2. Studying art also taught him about history.
3. His main goal is improving his brushwork.
4. Creating art is hard work but also lots of fun.
5. Martina started painting with oils this year.
6. People like visiting art galleries.

B. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Underline each gerund or gerund phrase. On the blank, write how it is used: **S** for subject, **PN** for predicate nominative, **DO** for direct object, or **OP** for object of a preposition.

1. Painting made me appreciate how light affects color. _____
2. John prefers taking photos of people. _____
3. We encouraged his entering the competition. _____
4. Mom kept me from going without my jacket. _____
5. Dorie's best subject is acting in drama class. _____
6. Finding the right tool is half the job. _____
7. After jogging, Mr. Conway loved to eat doughnuts. _____
8. The problem is thinking of a good topic. _____
9. Do you remember fingerpainting in kindergarten? _____
10. Jonathan got paid for sculpting the dolphin. _____

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Underline each gerund or gerund phrase. In the blank, write how it is used: **S** for subject, **PN** for predicate nominative, **DO** for direct object, or **OP** for object of a preposition.

1. For a crisp texture, avoid overcooking the vegetables. _____
2. Before running, Jim always stretches. _____
3. Omar preferred watching the hockey game. _____
4. For Joanna, making a papier-mâché globe was a messy project. _____
5. Marcello's specialty is sculpting. _____
6. Collecting candy on Halloween still appeals to Del. _____
7. Noreen hates being left behind. _____
8. Thomas really dislikes drawing. _____
9. Aunt Frances started searching the attic for baby clothes. _____
10. My dog's only trick is singing. _____

B. Using Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Rewrite each sentence. Change the boldfaced word or words to a gerund or gerund phrase. Underline each gerund. You may need to alter some other words in the sentence.

1. **To paint landscapes well** has always been Juan's goal.

2. After **he took lessons**, Juan showed great improvement.

3. His goal for this year is **to sell at least one of his works**.

4. He feels that **to make a sale** will prove he has some ability.

5. We say he should be happy with **his creation of a decent picture**.

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Application

A. Using Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Write sentences using the following gerunds and gerund phrases in the sentence parts indicated.

1. painting by numbers (subject) _____

2. sculpting in marble (object of preposition) _____

3. sketching cartoons (predicate noun) _____

4. cleaning brushes (direct object) _____

5. choosing a good subject (your choice of sentence part) _____

B. Using Gerunds and Gerund Phrases in Writing

You are on a committee whose job is to design a model city. What public buildings and parks will be needed, in addition to homes, stores, offices, and factories? What concerns (such as safety, avoiding wasted travel time, and providing good scenery) should be taken into account when locating these different types of buildings? Write a paragraph in which you outline one or more topics that the committee should discuss. Use five or more gerunds in your paragraph.
